

VZCZCXYZ0034
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTL #0330 1410942
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 210942Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY TALLINN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9841
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS TALLINN 000330

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DEPT FOR EUR/RPM (RICHARD PROSEN), USOCSE (CHRISTOPHER SIBILLA), AND S/CT (ROOPA RANGASWAMY)

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CLUSTER MUNITIONS CONFERENCE: ESTONIA STILL TO DECIDE ON OSLO PROCESS

Ref: STATE 66596

SBU) On May 18, we delivered reftel points to Arti Hilpus, MFA Security and Arms Control Director, and Ketlin Susmalainen, MFA Desk Officer, and discussed the upcoming conference in Lima, Peru on Cluster Munitions. Like the United States, Hilpus said that Estonia is also greatly concerned by the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions. Susmalainen, the MFA's delegate to the Lima Conference, said that Estonia's main goal at the conference is to uphold and strengthen existing multilateral arms control frameworks, principally the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW). While the GOE is aware that several countries have expressed the view that the CCW process has failed to produce an adequate response to the "humanitarian challenges" of cluster munitions, Hilpus said that the GOE still sees the CCW as the most effective and suitable framework in dealing with cluster munitions. However, Hilpus also made clear that the GOE has not ruled out supporting the Oslo process, arguing that it has already given political impetus to the CCW proceedings and may continue to play a complimentary and mutually reinforcing role to the CCW.

PHILLIPS